

St Mary's Shortlands - Vision and Mission

1. Our Mission Statement – "Sharing the Love of God"

2. Our Vision

2.1 It starts with us and our heart for God: *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength"* Mark 12:30

To be people who:

- continually seek to grow our knowledge and understanding of our Christian faith and our relationship with God, through worship, prayer, learning and reading the Bible
- celebrate a deep awareness of the love of God for us and through us
- express a strong and confident sense of who we are and where we are going as a church
- recognise and accommodate that we are all on a journey

2.2 Within 1-2 years - building confidence so we are: *"willing to give the reason for the hope that we have"* 1 Peter 3:15 – and building fellowship: *"clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness', humility, gentleness and patience"* Colossians 3:12

To be a church which:

- uses and develops our individual and collective gifts, buildings and grounds to support our vision and mission, acting as good stewards
- consolidates and stabilises our corporal life together
- honours individuals and builds relationships listens and responds to the needs of our community
- demonstrates faith in all aspects of everyday life (which is reflected in our spiritual, physical, social, financial and emotional lives)
- builds on the welcome we offer in order to include and nurture all who encounter us

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2.3 Within 3-5 years – hub of community, the go to place for spiritual support and encouragement: *“Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true”* Ephesians 5:9

To be a church that is known for:

- authentic Christian faith
- being all visibly part of the same body
- generosity of spirit, heart and giving
- an active source of spiritual support and encouragement, healing and refuge that responds to the needs of the community
- commitment to environmental stewardship

2.4 Within 5-10 years – prophetic and challenging: *“You are the salt of the earth”* Matthew 5:13

To be a counter-cultural “salty” presence in the community offering:

- a self-aware belonging, believing, and behaving culture
- a prophetic and confident voice on issues of social justice and societal issues
- inclusivity, acceptance and flexibility in a constant response to a changing world

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3. Our Strategic objectives for key mission areas

3.1 Growing as disciples

Learning

- Expand Home Group offering so all can become part of a group
- Programme of Bible study and discipleship
- Leadership training for study and prayer groups

Worship and sacrament

- Liturgy reflecting our rich heritage and meeting diverse needs
- embrace our vibrant musical offering: choral tradition, modern and other worship music
- Encourage wider participation in leading worship
- Encourage youth to create and deliver worship

Prayer

- Prayer ministry
- Encourage meeting together for prayer and reflection (as in Come Holy Spirit)

3.2 Building fellowship

Knowing each other

- Nurture gifts and talents in the congregation and community
- Sustain and expand whole-church events including food, fellowship and fun.
- Build on welcome team to support and follow up new and potential members of St Mary's

Children and Families

- Support our junior church leader and other youth leaders in their ministry.
- Develop opportunities for youth leadership
- Provide support for parents with young families

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Pastoral support

- Expand and support the work of the Pastoral Team to ensure we are able to meet the diverse needs of different groups within the congregation
- Signpost pastoral support for whole congregation

3.3 Outreach

Community Engagement

- Develop further uses of the Café area - place of fun and conversation in Christian context
- Explore opportunities to reach parents and those who work from home eg parenting training
- Signpost local services for support and guidance

Developing the mission to specific groups

- follow-up occasional service attenders – Baptisms, funerals, weddings etc.
- End of life ministry - using Grave Talk materials
- Build on outreach to schools

Extending outreach

- Prayer visiting/ Prayer walks
- Develop concert series with DOM
- Festival to celebrate our church building (70th anniversary - 2023)
- Work to identify changing needs of demographic
- Respond to wider church initiatives, e.g. Warm Spaces

Buildings and Environmental

- Ensure any development reflects our vision and mission and includes the whole site, reflecting our stewardship responsibilities
- Commitment to environment reflected in management of church buildings and grounds

Social Justice and Service

- Celebrate and sustain mission of the month
- Involvement and sometimes partnership with community organisations
- Developing a prophetic voice

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4 Enablers for implementation of Vision and Mission (to be developed with PCC)

4.1 Clear Communication strategy both internally and externally

4.2 Strong and effective governance

4.3 Sufficient resources including:

- people,
- leadership
- funding